

Glossary

all-hazards	Threats to the national critical infrastructure can come from a range of sources including natural disasters, criminal activity, terrorism, espionage/foreign interference etc.
AusCERT	An organisation, located in the University of Queensland, which provides computer incident prevention, response and mitigation strategies for members, a national alerting service and an incident reporting scheme.
back-capture	The process by which legislative instruments that were made before the commencement of the <i>Legislative Instruments Act 2003</i> are required to be registered during the following three years.
carbon geosequestration	The combined processes of capture, transport and geological storage of carbon dioxide emissions. It is one of several possible technologies that the Australian Government is considering to enable Australia to meet future greenhouse objectives. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources is the lead agency on this issue.
CobiT standard	CobiT (Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology) is an international standard for information technology governance, better practice and audit.
ComLaw	The new web site that provides access to the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments as well as to Acts and other legislative material in a single integrated system.
common law	Law derived from custom and judicial precedent (case law) rather than from legislation.
competitive tendering and contracting (CTC)	The process of contracting out the delivery of government activities previously performed by an Australian Government agency to another organisation (outsourcing). The activity is submitted to competitive tender, and the preferred provider of the activity is selected from the range of bidders by evaluating offers against predetermined selection criteria.
consent determination	A decision by an Australian court (or a recognised State or Territory body) that native title does or does not exist in a particular area of land or waters after the parties have reached an agreement as to the terms of the determination.

consultancy services	A particular type of service delivered under a contract for services, distinguished from other contracts by the nature of the work performed. A consultant is an entity (whether an individual, a partnership or a corporation) engaged to provide professional independent and expert advice or services. Consultancy services involve the application of expert professional skills to: investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem, carry out defined research, reviews or evaluations; or provide independent advice, information or creative solutions to assist the agency in management decision making. A consultancy contract typically defines the nature, purpose and duration of the task to be performed but not (in any detail) the manner in which the task is to be performed. The consultant is usually paid on completion of milestones or in a lump sum. Consultants are not employees of the department and are not paid wages or other employee entitlements.
corporate governance	The process by which agencies are directed and controlled. It is generally understood to encompass authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control.
countervailing measures	An extra duty of Customs imposed on subsidised imports to offset the injury to domestic producers that may be caused by that subsidy.
emergency management sector	Organisations and individuals involved in the prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and management of risk to communities—ie federal, State and local government authorities, community organisations, volunteers.
Emergo-train	A major incident simulator for multi-agency planning and exercising using real data or recreated actual incidences. It provides agencies with the opportunity to plan for and manage a major incident, and to develop their management and decision making skills in a desktop environment, while experiencing the pressures and emotions of a real incident.
extradition	Surrender by one country to another of a person for trial on criminal charges or to serve a sentence already imposed for a criminal offence.
in personam	An action or right of action against a specific person. In the context of admiralty actions, it means actions enforceable against the defendant personally.
Federal Register of Legislative Instruments	A mechanism for managing Commonwealth legislative instruments, which provides the public with quick and easy access to legislative instruments and related material through the Internet. All Commonwealth rule-making agencies are required to lodge new legislative instruments for registration as soon as practicable after making, and to register ('back-capture') all existing instruments by the end of 2007.

legislative instrument	A legislative instrument, for the <i>Legislative Instruments Act 2003</i> , covers the following instruments made under a provision of an Act: all regulations, statutory rules, disallowable instruments and proclamations, and any other instrument that is of a 'legislative character' - ie it determines a law or lays down a rule, rather than applying to a particular case, and affects privileges, rights, interests or obligations. The legislative character depends on the content of the individual instrument rather than on the provision under which it is made.
mandamus	An order issued by a court to compel a public official to perform a public duty or to exercise a statutory discretionary power.
mitigation	Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment.
mutual assistance in business regulation	Use of evidence-gathering powers of a body such as the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or Australian Prudential Regulation Authority to obtain evidence for use by a similar foreign agency.
National Clandestine Laboratory Database	A database that will store information and intelligence on seized clandestine drug laboratories and precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture for use by all Australian law enforcement and forensic agencies. The National Clandestine Laboratory Database is being developed and implemented by the Department under the National Strategy to prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture.
National Identity Security Strategy	In September 2005, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to the development and implementation of a National Identity Security Strategy better to protect the identities of Australians. The strategy will enhance identification and verification processes and develop other measures including a national document verification service and robust security standards for proof of identity documents to combat identity crime. The strategy will be underpinned by an inter-governmental agreement.
native title	A pre-existing property interest, held communally or individually by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, which is capable of being recognised by Australia's common law. Native title can exist over land and waters where Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders maintain traditional laws and customs that give them a connection to the specified area. Native title rights are not 'granted' by governments or courts. Native title is not an underlying title, but rather a bundle of rights that can be extinguished by inconsistent acts of government.
ongoing APS employee	A person engaged as an ongoing APS employee as mentioned in paragraph 22(2)(a) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .
operations	Functions, services and processes performed in pursuing the objectives or discharging the functions of an agency.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	International body, of which Australia is a member, responsible for encouraging economic cooperation and development and, in that context, working to control bribery of government officials in developing countries.
outcomes	The results, impacts or consequence of actions by the Australian Government on the Australian community.
outputs	The goods or services produced by agencies on behalf of government for external organisations or individuals. Outputs include goods and services produced for other areas of government external to an agency.
people trafficking	The recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threats, force, coercion, deception or abuse of power, for the purposes of exploitation.
performance information	Evidence about performance that is collected and used systematically which may relate to appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency and the extent to which an outcome can be attributed to an intervention. Performance information may be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative (descriptive), but it should be verifiable. Evaluations may also be periodically utilised to assess the performance of programs and activities.
performance pay	Also known as performance-linked bonuses and usually taking the form of a one-off payment in recognition of performance. Retention and sign-on payments are not considered to be performance pay, and nor is performance-linked advancement, which includes advancement to higher pay points which then become the employee's nominal salary. In cases where an employee receives both a performance-linked bonus and performance-linked advancement (such as a one-off payment plus an increase in regular salary), only the bonus element is reportable.
precursor chemicals	Those chemicals, compounds and reagents that are used in manufacturing illicit drugs
reasonable adjustment	Where a person can perform the inherent requirements of a job, an employer is required to make reasonable adjustments to the workplace or work practices to accommodate any additional needs that the person may have.
risk management	The culture, frameworks and structures that are directed towards the effective management of potential opportunities and adverse effects. Risk management involves the systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the steps of establishing the context, identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and communicating risk.
SCALEplus	A web site on which the Department publishes up-to-date Commonwealth legislation. It is being progressively replaced with ComLaw.

service charters	Public statements about the service that a department or agency will provide.
sunset period	Under the <i>Legislative Instruments Act 2003</i> , most legislative instruments will expire after a 'sunset period' of ten years.
workplace diversity	The central principle of workplace diversity is the creation of workplaces free from discrimination, harassment and bullying—workplaces where all employees act in accordance with the APS Code of Conduct and demonstrate their commitment to the APS Values.